Judiciary & Circuit Clerk & Juvenile & Probation Committee Meeting
Tentative Minutes
Tuesday, August 11, 2009 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – by Vice Chairman Stahl at 3:01. Members present: Stahl, Colbert, Kenney, DeArvil. Members absent: Nye, Gouker. Also present: Jason Bauer, Greg Martin, Mike Dale, Marty Typer, Meggon McKinley, Don Conn.

2. Approval of Minutes: Tricia Morrow requested an amendment to the July 14, 2009 minutes to remove reference to CASA financially treading water and replace with treading water to keep pace with the work load. Motion to accept amendment to minutes by Kenney. 2nd by DeArvil. Motion carried. Morrow also requested an amendment to the July 14, 2009 minutes to remove reference to Judge Pemberton covering the entire CASA fee this year and replace with Judge Pemberton is communicating with the appropriate department heads regarding their funding for CASA. Motion to accept the second amendment to minutes by DeArvil. 2nd by Kenney. Motion carried. Motion to approve minutes as amended by Kenney. Dearvil 2nd. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment - none

4. Consideration of Monthly Invoices:
   - Focus House – Colbert motioned to approve the bills in the amount of $852.87. 2nd by DeArvil. Motion carried
   - Probation – none.
   - Circuit Clerk – DeArvil motioned to approve the bills in the amount of $4,198.66. 2nd by Kenney. Motion carried.
   - Judiciary – Kenney motioned to approve the bills in the amount of $2,160.59. 2nd by Colbert. Motion carried.

5. Department Reports:
   - Probation & Focus House– Greg Martin reported that the census is lower than average for both programs and they are working hard to fill spots through other counties. Detention fees will be at the expected $22,643.86 from the juvenile murder case detention fees previously approved by the Finance Committee. Martin reported that any extra detention fees as normal for the rest of 2009 will be covered out of the Discretionary Fund. He also reported a new law will go into effect January 1 stating a child must be 18 to be tried as an adult, not 17. Any child under 18 arrested for a misdemeanor will be prosecuted as a child. Martin reported they don't detain many kids for misdemeanors, so this shouldn't impact us too much. If they change the age to apply to felonies next year, this would impact us.
   - Circuit Clerk – Marty Typer reported that the second half of the Self Help grant funding should be coming soon as it has been released by Springfield. He also noted that Drug Court is in force and they are moving to collect the fees. He also noted that

they have been having trouble with the state using the wrong citation form, and are working to correct that problem.

6. New Business –
   - 2009 Budget Status
     - Probation- Greg Martin reported because his budget is so constrained, he is not able to give back 3% because there is nothing to give. Focus House has already laid off staff to adjust to dramatically lower revenues this year, and both departments are cutting costs where ever possible.
     - Circuit Clerk- Marty Typer remains $28,000 over budget in salaries due to the union contract signed after the 2009 budget went into effect. This item remains under review with the County Board as to possible resolution. Typer has talked with McKinley multiple times requesting that the board fund at least half of this overage to allow him to continue functioning as necessary given no other source of funding is allowed by statute to cover the salary overages.
   - 2010 Proposed Budget
     - Probation – Martin submitted his 2010 budget, noting reductions are mainly around salaries. One position will be open in December and he will not be filling the spot. They are working to move people into different roles between Focus House and Probation to help reduce the budget and do more with less. Martin noted he has initiated a request to the union to allow him to deviate from the union comp schedule, which the budget will not support this year. Instead, he has offered one time bonus payments based on longevity, to be funded out of his discretionary funds and not the general fund. This will keep Probation general fund salary line item to a 0% increase. The one time payments will not be added to the base salary, but they do get credit to IMRF. All non-union people work for Mike at Focus House and the current budget doesn't include any raises there either as they are waiting to see what salary instructions the county provides in the coming month. Kenney noted the goal is to preserve jobs and benefits but acknowledged raises may or may not come in this difficult revenue cycle. Martin recommended increasing the detention fee budget by $15,000 for 2010 because the fees have consistently been over budget. He also noted detention fees are not a function of Probation, rather a function of the County. However, Probation oversees who is in it, and McKinley recommends Martin be allowed to keep this line item without being penalized for the percentage increase so he can keep ownership of this process and help manage the decision of where they go to keep the costs down. For instance, kids are often placed in detention only because of the court has issued a warrant for their arrest to ensure they are picked up safely. But then they must go to detention, which is much more expensive. Martin indicates they can refer the child to Focus House in lieu of detention if the child is not a risk to the community or a flight risk. Judge Kaufmann believes this is good and they are trying to do more of this. Martin believes he can get through this year (2009) without asking the County for more money based on use of discretionary fees from the Dependent Children's Fund (an account set up by

statute and not touched by the county- only to be used for those activities related to dependent children of that county and under the oversight of the presiding judge) and Probation Fees (anyone on probation pays probation fees- this was set up to provide more services to the people, like counseling, and not to pay overhead. The statute has changed and Probation can use it for any overhead expense except for salaries now. This account is currently being used to cover office supplies and other overhead not covered by the County.) He notes that 2010 is going to be difficult if revenues do not pick back up.

- Focus House- Mike Dale reported we have contracts with 10 other counties for them to place kids with us and that revenues we get from them go into the Dependent Children's Fund, along with fees from our own county's kids. Dale reported that these funding streams have seen a major drop off. In 2008, revenues here were $545,000. This year, we're at $134,000 through July, which is considerably off. Out of county kids are not being sent to us as cost savings for their counties. Martin says we can't run this fund out of money and surprise the county by saying there is a problem and so he used this opportunity to escalate what they are doing to continue moving forward. He noted Focus House will be okay in 2009, but 2010 is going to be tough if the revenue stream doesn't come back up. Martin outlined 3 solutions, based on severity of continued revenue drops:
  i. Restructuring in Focus House- so as population is down, close one or two houses here or there to adjust with the low numbers. However, it's best to have multiple houses to separate various populations (boys, girls, sexual offenders, etc.) But Martin acknowledges we may not be able to keep all houses open in 2010.
  ii. Continue cutting expenses back. Already, they have laid off a part time person, and recently another full time person. Another supervisor may be leaving and they won't fill it right away. They are examining every other line item, like food costs, training costs, etc. Martin reported that by statute, Probation Officers must have 20 hours of continuing education per year, but can we do more locally? Online? Yet these cost cutting measures won't be enough if the revenues don't come back.
  iii. Temporarily close Focus House (90 days? More?) But this not a good solution because the savings can be deceiving. Ogle County would still have to pay for placement of the youth by whatever judgment comes from the court – without respect to county finances. The sex offender home at Focus House has been a good place for these kids and a tremendous savings to the County since few other places want to take them. They charge very high fees for these and other detention services (up to $386 / day vs. Focus House $110 per day). Our Focus House provides huge savings to the County, which would be lost if there were no Focus House for placement. Other impact of closing Focus House as identified on the Focus House Fiscal Report include:
    1. Ogle County taking over responsibility for the $185,670.92 Oregon Community Bank note

2. Reassignment or lay off of 32 full time or part time staff moving senior Focus House officers to Probation.
3. Closing of the school program which allows the Focus House residents to continue their education and helps them succeed where the public schools can't.
4. Loss of $889,769.53 school revenues to support the school program (and spreading responsibility for these kids back into our county's schools)
5. Ogle County taking over responsibility for maintaining all properties including utility payments.
6. Disbanding of the Focus House foundation.
7. Closing of Ogle County Reporting Center which helps at risk kids do well at school instead of getting into more trouble

Kenney asked what other counties are doing with their kids? Mike Dale reports that they struggle, and often don't place them in the care they need. He reported other counties are very jealous of us for having Focus House because they just have the kids sit in detention facilities, or send them to department of corrections. These communities just try to monitor them as much as they can and release them back into the community, which is not an effective solution for the kids or the community. McKinley noted she is not in favor of closing Focus House for any length time because the work they are doing, along with the Juvenile Justice System, is providing a comprehensive process to intervene with services and programs that support the kids and their families in a way that keeps them out of the adult corrections system through intervention strategies available no where else. She noted she recently learned studies have proven that putting youth into juvenile or adult correction centers actually entices children into more trouble than if they hadn't been exposed to the corrections system, which we are able to achieve through Focus House. Ogle County's leadership and success rates at mitigating the risk of these kids before they become adult problems is gaining national attention and is not something that should be halted without complete understanding of the impact. Martin also noted he has asked Meggon to help with Marketing programs in the future that could help Focus House move beyond word of mouth and reach out to counties that haven't used us before.

- Circuit Clerk- Typer asked McKinley to recap the 2010 budget projections he submitted to the committee via interoffice mail. McKinley noted Typer has kept his salary projections at the rates required by the union contract, which includes roughly $22,000 in increases. He has identified an additional $8,200 in savings and raised postage by $3,500 to accommodate all office needs at the Judicial Center at higher postal rates. The net increase request is roughly $17,300.

7. Old Business – none

8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 3:59 by DeArvil at 3:59. Colbert 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,
Meggon McKinley, Ogle County Administrator

Kim Stahl – Vice Chairman

Sheriff's Department Training Room
103 Jefferson St in Oregon, Illinois
Public Entrance – gated entrance off Jefferson Street – use East door of building